

# The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1896.

## Editorial.

### THE PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The cares of a pastor are many and his responsibilities are great. It is true he has no power to save a soul. God alone can do that. But he is the chosen instrument of God for the salvation of souls, and upon the faithful performance of his duties may depend the eternal destinies of many a human life. Who can tell how far reaching is his influence, extending, not only through time, but through eternity. A single misstep, a wrong word said, an error taught or a duty neglected, may be the means of turning a soul from the path of righteousness which leads to eternal glory. Neglect, mere neglect on the part of the pastor, may mean death to a human soul. How important then that the Bishop of souls, the shepherd of God's sheep should be careful in the discharge of his duties and meeting his responsibilities. In delivering an address to a class of medical students, an eminent surgeon related the following pathetic and tragic incident:

"Young gentlemen," said he, "let me impress you with the solemn side of our noble profession. It deals with human life, and human life is a sacred thing—not only the highest gift the Creator can bestow, but it is in itself the sum of all gifts. If he who drives a poniard to the heart of a sleeping man is a murderer, is he less guilty who trifles with a life confided to his care? Gentlemen, were I to confess that I am a murderer, you would be startled; you might hasten from the room to search for an officer to arrest me, or, taking a more charitable view, you might suppose me bereft of reason. But I recall and will relate to you an incident of my early experience. Shortly after I took up practice a case was placed in my hands of a man who had been injured seriously, but not necessarily fatally. It required an operation, which I performed satisfactorily to myself; but the patient needed special attention, lest blood poisoning set in. My plans were made to visit him twice a day to wash the wound and change bandages. In those days I

was a devotee of the gun and rod, and, not being embarrassed with work, I went into the woods. The day wore away, and I had brought down nothing. Not willing to return with an empty bag, I forgot my patient, and reached home late at night bringing a few birds, but being weary thought that it would be sufficient to see him in the morning. But, gentlemen, unlooked-for complications had set in, and before the morning came I was aroused, hastened to the patient to find that the chances were all against him; and, do what I could, he did not recover. Believing that had I seen him the evening before, this would not have happened, I can only free myself from the guilt of murder by pleading to myself my youth and inexperience. Gentlemen, place your patient before your pleasure or your ease. Put yourself in his place and he in yours, and do for him what you, if helpless, would wish him to do for you."

Of this incident the *Christian Advocate* makes the following application:

"But if the physician should do this, what should be expected of the pastor?"

Human life, indeed, is sacred, and should never be taken or its loss risked. But were there no future immortal life it would be of little importance, for man would then be as the beasts that perish. The best way to drown trouble would be to die, and the highest joys would be made unsatisfactory by their uncertainty; only those who could forget could be happy. However, as the dead may not return, none can reveal the conditions of that life, nor even assure us of its existence. The Christian pastor claims to possess a revelation from God to man, informing him that the body alone is destructible, and warning him to fear Him who, after the body is killed, can inflict punishment upon the soul. The pastor claims that he is commissioned to warn men to flee from the wrath to come, to present to them an infallible remedy for the disease of sin, to break unto them the bread of life, and at the same time to remind them continually that only he that endureth to the end shall or can be saved. The revelation describes the pastor and his work under the various figures of a watchman, a nurse, a shepherd, a guide, and explains to him how by fidelity he may deliver his own soul.

If the physician by neglect may become accessory to the death of a patient, so may the pastor by neglect, evil example, or wrong counsel be accessory to the loss of a soul."

THE price of the EVANGELIST from this date to the end of the year is 75 cents.

### ANOTHER APPEAL.

Not for additional subscribers this time, though we shall be glad to receive them in large numbers. It is *money* we want now, money for the subscriber we *do* have. Bills are now being sent out aggregating about \$800. This is by no means the whole amount standing on our books, but if we succeed in collecting this amount we shall be greatly relieved. And why should there be any trouble in making these collections? Will not our agents make an effort to collect from those who have not yet paid and send in the money? We are much in need of it and we hope for a liberal response to this appeal. If the Publishing House had a capital of \$10,000, we would gladly give you your own time to make payment. But our paper must be paid and so must our hands in the office. How shall we do this unless subscriptions are paid! Do not think us over urgent in this matter. We take no special delight in these appeals, indeed we would much rather say nothing about these matters, and just as soon as we are able to get our paper and our work without money we will cease making these appeals to our customers. Until then it is needful that we make collections. On August 1, we expect to close our books, and prepare our statement for National Conference. It is desirable to make as many collections as possible before closing the books.

### THAT DOCTRINAL NUMBER.

The Doctrinal number of the EVANGELIST will be issued the latter part of July. It will be an excellent number for free distribution and churches should order a good supply. To keep before our readers the rich treat they may expect in this symposium on Doctrine, we print again the names of the contributors and the subjects on which they have agreed to write.

1. Baptism—Its Design. J. C. Mackey.
2. Baptism.—Subjects. M. Shively.
3. Baptism.—Is it Immersion? J. M. Tombaugh.
4. Baptism.—Is it Trine? I. D. Bowman.
5. Feet Washing. J. D. McFaden.
6. Lord's Supper. G. W. Rensch.
7. The Eucharist.—Bread and Wine. B. C. Moomaw.
8. Confirmation. J. Allen Miller.
9. Non-Resistance. J. W. Beer.

The price of extra copies will be as follows: Per dozen, 20 cents. Per hundred, \$1.00.